

IN THE CLAIMS:

Although not amended herein, the text of all pending claims is set forth below.

1. (previously presented) A method of acquiring program guide information for channels including a currently tuned in channel and a preferential channel, comprising:
receiving the program guide information and a program on the currently tuned in channel of the channels;
acquiring the program guide information for the received program received on the preferential channel;
acquiring the remaining program guide information being broadcast for the remaining accessible channels to acquire the remaining program guide information from other program guide information contained in the remaining accessible channels while the program being received on the currently tuned in channel is not displayed after a program guide mode is entered, wherein the remaining program guide information is acquired according to a selectively prioritized channel search.

2. (previously presented) The method of acquiring program guide information for channels as claimed in claim 1, wherein said acquiring the remaining program guide information for each channel, including the channel currently tuned into and the channels except for the currently tuned in channel, comprises obtaining the program guide information of the accessible channels by a tuner while the program received by the tuner is not displayed.

3. (previously presented) A program guiding method in which a program list for channels is displayed in response to a program guide command, the method comprising:
acquiring program guide information of accessible channels, including a channel currently tuned into, a preferential channel, and remaining channels, being broadcast in response to the program guide command, wherein the program guide information is acquired according to a prioritized or preferential channel search;
storing the acquired program guide information;
writing a program list on the basis of the stored program guide information; and
displaying the written program list to a user in response to the program guide command.

4. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising providing a message indicating that the user must wait until the program list is written.

5. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

determining whether the program guide information is effective by comparing a current time to an effective period of stored program guide information, and

proceeding to said writing the program list when the stored program guide information is effective, before said acquiring the program guide information.

6. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said acquiring the program guide information includes:

writing and displaying a program list including the program guide information of channels tuned before a program guide command is executed, from the stored program guide information, and

acquiring the program guide information for each channel by searching for the accessible channels in a background operation while the program list is referred to.

7. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said acquiring the program guide information comprises determining the sequence of accessing channels by proximity of channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

8. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said acquiring the program guide information comprises determining the order of priority of channels having the same proximity to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed according to a channel up/down command input before corresponding channels are accessed.

9. (original) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 7, wherein an upward or downward direction is preferential when no channel up/down command is executed.

10. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said acquiring the program guide information comprises searching channels upward or downward from the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

11. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising writing a probability distribution of tuned channels, wherein said acquiring the program guide information comprises searching the channels in an order of priority according to a probability distribution of channels.

12. (previously presented) A program guiding method in which a program list for each channel is displayed in response to a program guide command, the method comprising:

writing and displaying a program list including program guide information of a channel currently tuned into before a program guide command is executed and remaining accessible channels, from stored program guide information;

acquiring program guide information being broadcast for each of the channels by searching for the accessible channels in a background operation while the written and displayed program list is referred to by a user;

storing the acquired program guide information for each of the channels;

rewriting a program list on the basis of the stored program guide information; and

displaying the rewritten program list to the user.

13. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said acquiring the guide information comprises determining a sequence of accessing the accessible channels by the proximity of the accessible channels to the channel currently tuned into before the program guide command is executed.

14. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said acquiring the guide information comprises determining an order of priority of the accessible channels having the same proximity to the channel currently tuned into according to a channel up/down command input before corresponding channels are accessed.

15. (original) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 13, wherein an upward or downward direction is preferential when no channel up/down command is applied.

16. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said acquiring the guide information comprises searching channels upward or downward from the channel currently tuned into before the program guide command is executed.

17. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising writing a probability distribution of channels which were previously tuned into, and wherein the channels are searched for in the order of priority according to the probability distribution of channels.

18. (previously presented) The program guiding method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said displaying the written program list comprises
displaying a message indicating a status of program guide information in response to the program guide information of a corresponding channel not being stored, and
displaying the program guide information of a corresponding channel in response to acquiring the program guide information of the currently tuned channel tuned before the program guide command is executed being acquired in said acquiring the program guide information.

19. (previously presented) An apparatus for acquiring program guide information of accessible channels and guiding program guide information acquired in response to a program guide command in a multichannel receiver, the apparatus comprising:

- a tuner tuning a currently tuned in channel;
- a program guide information detector detecting program guide information for the currently tuned in channel introduced via said tuner;
- a memory storing the program guide information for each channel detected by said program guide information detector;
- a key input introducing a user manipulation command such as a program guide command or a channel search command;
- a microprocessor, in response to the manipulation command input via said key input, that
 - writes a program list based on program guide information stored in said memory, and searches for remaining accessible channels to obtain program guide information being broadcast for the remaining accessible channels by controlling said tuner in a background operation while a user refers to the program list; and
 - a character signal generator generating a character signal corresponding to the program list written by said microprocessor and providing the character signal to a screen.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus for acquiring and displaying a program guide command as claimed in claim 19, wherein said microprocessor determines the sequence of accessing remaining accessible channels by the proximity between the remaining accessible channels to the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

21. (previously presented) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said microprocessor determines the order of priority of the remaining accessible channels having the same proximity according to a user's channel up/down command input via said key input before corresponding channels are accessed.

22. (previously presented) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said microprocessor searches for remaining accessible channels preferentially in an upward or downward direction when no channel up/down command is executed.

23. (previously presented) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said microprocessor searches for remaining accessible channels upward or downward from the channel tuned before the program guide command is executed.

24. (previously presented) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 19, further comprising a probability estimator calculating a probability that channels are to be selected, by accumulating a number of times which the channels are tuned, wherein said microprocessor searches for the remaining accessible channels in an order of priority according to a probability of tuning by the channels calculated by said probability estimator.

25. (previously presented) The program guiding apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said microprocessor provides to said character signal generator a status message on a message screen in response to the program guide information of a corresponding channel not being stored.

26. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accessible channels include channels accessed by a tuner and channels provided by a line input.

27. (previously presented) The program guiding method as recited in claim 3, wherein said acquiring the program guide information comprises determining the sequence of accessing channels by proximity of the remaining accessible channels to the channel tuned and by a channel up/down command input just before a channel search is determined.

28. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:
means for detecting program guide information being broadcast corresponding to channels in relation to a tuned channel; and
means for searching for accessible channels of the channels having corresponding other program guide information based upon a command received, the detected program guide information, and a relation to the tuned channel, wherein the means for searching searches the accessible channels in a prioritized manner.

29-36. (cancelled)